

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4490

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, MY, US

SUBJECT: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

REF: A. STATE 188803; B. STATE 193232

SUMMARY: MALAYSIA WILL ADVOCATE AT COLOMBO THAT NAC ON KOREA LIMIT ITSELF TO A CALL FOR RECONCILIATION AND A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. FAILING ADOPTION OF THIS POSITION, IT WILL SEEK TO MODERATE LANGUAGE ENDORSING THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION, AND DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM AN UNACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION. ON PUERTO RICO, GOM UNDERSTANDS OUR POSITION COMPLETELY, WILL NOT SUPPORT NAC RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT, BUT IN THE FACE OF STRONG CUBAN PRESSURE, SEES NO PROSPECT OF PREVENTING DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN OFFICE SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIA TO FOLLOW UP ON THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AT THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES CONFERENCE AND THE 31ST UNGA, TO RECEIVE GOM REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON KOREA AND PUERTO RICO (DELIVERED ON JULY 30) AND TO DELIVER THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. THE LATTER OF THESE SUBJECTS WILL BE COVERED IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

2. DRAWING ON THE SECRETARY'S LETTER I RESTATED THE BASIC
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ELEMENTS OF OUR POSITION ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. DATUK

ZAKARIA IN REPLY STATED THE MALAYSIAN POSITION IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

A. ON THE APPROACH TO THE KOREAN QUESTION, THE GOM OPPOSES DEBATE AND CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTIONS WHICH BRING THE TWO PARTIES NO CLOSER TO A RESOLUTION OF THE BASIC ISSUE. IT IS THEREFORE OPPOSED TO UNGA CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEM IN THIS YEAR'S SESSION. MALAYSIA FAVORS AND WILL ADVOCATE AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE THAT THE TWO PARTIES BE URGED TO TAKE A CONCILIATORY POSITION AND RESUME DIALOGUE WHICH THEY AGREED TO IN 1972. IT WILL OPPOSE GOING BEYOND THIS TO RECOMMEND MODALITIES SINCE THERE ARE MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN THIS AREA, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEANS OF SETTLEMENT CAN BRING ONLY INCREASED CONTROVERSY. THE MALAYSIAN POSITION IS THEREFORE THE SAME AS THE ONE ADVOCATED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH OF HIS LETTER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

B. THE FRIENDS OF NORTH KOREA WILL PRESS FOR LANGUAGE CONDEMNING SOUTH KOREA AND THE U.S., AND SUPPORTING THE NORTH KOREAN FORMULA FOR SOLUTION. IF THE MALAYSIAN POSITION ON KOREA IS NOT ACCEPTED (AND ZAKARIA SEES LITTLE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE), MALAYSIA WILL SEEK TO MODERATE THE LANGUAGE OF THE MAJORITY POSITION AND MAY DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE STATEMENT IF IT FINDS IT GROSSLY UNACCEPTABLE.

C. THE GOM FAVORS ANY FORM OF NEGOTIATION WHICH CAN BRING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE KOREAN QUESTION AND IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH AIDES, AND THEREFORE WELCOMES THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE MADE IN HIS JULY 22 SPEECH IN SEATTLE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH A ABOVE, HOWEVER, MALAYSIA WILL NOT PUBLICLY ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT CONCERNS MODALITIES AND GOES BEYOND THE BASIC POSITION OF CONCILIATION AND DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

D. WHETHER OR NOT THE GOM TAKES FORMAL OBJECTION TO NAC RESOLUTIONS, IT WILL NOT CONSIDER ITSELF BOUND BY ANY ACTION OF THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

3. ON PUERTO RICO, ZAKARIA SAID THAT MALAYSIA UNDERSTANDS CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPLETELY OUR POSITION AND THAT IT DOES NOT FAVOR NONALIGNED INVOLVEMENT IN THIS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, IT DOES NOT SUPPORT NAC CONSIDERATION ON PUERTO RICO, BUT HAVING IN MIND THE STRONG POSITION OF CUBA AND ITS FRIENDS, SEES NO WAY OF PREVENTING IT FROM BEING DISCUSSED IN COLOMBO.

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT MALAYSIA INTENDS TO
CONTINUE THE POLICY ON KOREA IT FOLLOWED IN ALGIERS
IN ADVOCATING AN EVEN-HANDED APPROACH, OPPOSING EXTREME LANGUAGE
AND IN THE END DISASSOCIATING ITSELF FROM A RESOLUTION WHICH IT
FEELS UNACCEPTABLE. IN DOING SO MALAYSIA
CONSIDERS ITSELF MORE ON THE SIDE OF THE U.S. AND THE ROK
THAN THE DPRK. THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR
AGREES WITH THIS ESTIMATE AND FINDS
THE MALAYSIAN POSITION ACCEPTABLE. ON PUERTO RICO THE
GOM WILL DO NOTHING OSITIVE TO GIVE US OFFENSE, BUT WILL
TAKE NO ACTIVE ROLE IN TRYING TO PREVENT A DISCUSSION OF
THE ISSUE.
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